

Scientific and Useful.

SPOTTY CHIMNEYS CURED.—The accumulation of soot in chimneys is a great nuisance, and may be remedied by mixing considerable salt with the mortar with which the bricks composing the chimney are laid. The salt acts by absorbing moisture whenever it is damp and rainy, and the soot, becoming wet and heavy, falls into the fire below. This is an English idea, and is said to give satisfactory results.

WIRE-ROPE HAWSERS.—Some experiments, both in this country and in England, have been lately made on the comparative merits of hemp and wire for naval uses. A steel hawser of the same strength proves to be lighter than a hemp hawser, and almost equally flexible. Steel-wire is therefore pronounced superior to hemp as a material for hawsers, so far as ordinary naval requirements are concerned.

CALF'S HEAD.—Your butcher will clean the head; cut off the ears and dig out the eyes; boil head until it falls to pieces; separate the meat from the bones; lay the brains in a dish and return the remainder to water in which the head was boiled, and let it cook four hours; do not allow the water to get too low; spice it highly with pepper, salt, allspice, cloves, and mace; when done, thicken with a little batter and lump of butter; remove from the fire, and when the steam evaporates, add one-half pint of wine; take up in a deep dish and garnish with sliced lemon and hard-boiled eggs.

HOME-MADE COLOGNE.—Poor Cologne is worse than none, and an article which is much better than anything, but the most expensive, may be made by thoroughly dissolving a fluid dram of the oils of bergamot, orange and rosemary each, with half a dram of neroli, and a pint of rectified spirit. A more complicated, though better way, is to mix with one pint of rectified spirit two fluid drams each of the oils of bergamot and lemon, one of the oil of orange, with three quarters of a dram of neroli, and four drops of the essences of ambergris and musk. If this is subsequently distilled, it makes what may be called a perfect cologne, but it becomes exceedingly fine by being kept tightly stoppered for two or three months to ripen and mellow before use.

EASILY TRIED.—“Be sure and plant sunflowers every spring around your drains and kitchen windows,” was the advice given by an experienced physician to a young housekeeper. “It will save you a world of suffering, and a heavy doctor's bill. Fevers, or any malarial disease, will not visit a house that is protected by a battalion of sunflowers.” A long trial of this wise counsel has proved its wisdom and utility, and that young wife, who has grown gray since that time, has the most implicit faith in the virtue of sunflowers as a preventive of sickness. In one or two years the plants did not thrive by reason of neglect, and finally died. In these seasons sickness visited the home, and served to confirm her faith in their virtue. She would rather the potato crop should fail, than to have her sunny plants neglected.

LIGHTNING-RODS.—It is supposed that a lightning-rod protects a building by taking to itself and carrying into the ground the flash that otherwise would work destruction. This, however, rarely happens, for a thunderbolt usually contains far too much electricity for the conducting capacity of the ordinary rod, and very few houses that are actually struck, even though well furnished with rods, escape uninjured. The lightning rod acts, not by conducting the flash, but by preventing it. If a sharp point be presented to a body charged with electricity, it produces what is called a silent discharge, and quietly draws all the electricity away. How this occurs, and why a point should exercise such a peculiar effect, is not well understood, but it is to this principle that the lightning-rod owes its efficiency. The highly-electric thundercloud passing through the air, seeks to relieve itself, and the electricity finds the most convenient paths through the tallest trees and highest buildings. But if the house be armed with numerous sharp points, the sudden and destructive effects are usually prevented, and the electricity discharges silently, doing no damage. The injurious practice of insulating the rod where it touches the sides and roof of the structure is rapidly disappearing, as indeed it should. The small glass insulators form no barrier against a thunderbolt, and often do considerable injury in preventing the rapid and easy escape of the silent discharge. Lightning-rods should therefore be kept well pointed, and a good earth connection carefully maintained; for a blunt rod, or one that is imperfectly grounded, is a dangerous thing, and exposes the building to considerable risk.

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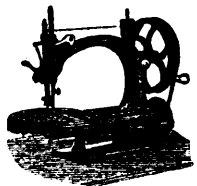
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